



Cross Wind Trap Strips

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

589C

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

April 1997

Landowner _____



Definition

A cross wind trap strip is an area of herbaceous vegetation, resistant to wind erosion, and grown in strips perpendicular to the prevailing wind direction. As the name implies, cross wind trap strips entrap wind-borne sediment.

Purpose

Cross wind trap strips catch wind-borne sediment and other pollutants, such as nutrients and pesticides, from the eroded material before it reaches waterbodies or other sensitive areas.

Where used

Cross wind trap strips can be used along watercourses, drainage ditches, waterbodies, and other sensitive areas adjacent to agricultural fields susceptible to wind erosion or wind erosion damage.

Conservation management systems

Cross wind trap strips are recommended as part of a resource management system that addresses all natural resource concerns and the objectives of the landowner or operator. For this practice to be fully effective, crop rotation, nutrient and pest management, crop residue management, and other cropland practices should be considered.

Wildlife

Cross wind trap strips provide excellent opportunities to improve wildlife habitat by creating travel lanes that connect important habitat areas or infield escape cover. For wildlife habitat benefits, select native or other adapted species that provide wildlife food and cover.

Operation and maintenance

Trap strips must be inspected periodically. Weeds must be controlled to allow proper establishment and maintenance of the desirable species. Fertilizer will be applied as needed to maintain plant vigor. Mowing or grazing will be scheduled to accommodate wildlife species and to allow regrowth to planned height before the critical wind period or crop damage is expected to occur. Trapped material will be removed and vegetation reestablished as necessary to maintain adequate efficiency of the practice.

Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Additional provisions are illustrated on the job sketch sheet. Spacing of the erosion-susceptible strips is determined using the NRCS erosion prediction technology. Specifications included in this job sheet are based on guidance contained in the local Field Office Technical Guide.

Cross Wind Trap Strips – Specifications Sheet

Landowner _____ Field number _____

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce soil erosion from wind	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide wildlife habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce pollution from wind-borne material	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect crops from wind-borne soil	

Location and Layout	Strip 1	Strip 2	Strip 3	Strip 4
Cultivated width (ft)				
Grassed strip width (ft)				
Grassed strip length (ft)				
Acres in buffer strip				

Plant Materials Information				
Species/cultivar by row number	Seeding rate (lb/acre)	Seeding date	Recommend lime (tons/acre)	Recommend fertilizer N-P ₂ O ₅ -K ₂ O (lb/acre)
<i>Strip #1</i>				
1				
2				
3				
<i>Strip #2</i>				
1				
2				
3				
<i>Strip #3</i>				
1				
2				
3				
<i>Strip #4</i>				
1				
2				
3				

Site Preparation
Prepare firm seedbed. Apply lime and fertilizer according to recommendations.
Planting Method(s)
Drill grass and/or legumes seed _____ inches deep uniformly. Establish stand of vegetation according to recommended seeding rate. If necessary, mulch newly seeded area with _____ tons per acre of mulch material. May seed small grain as a companion crop at the rate of _____ pounds per acre, but clip or harvest before it heads out.
Operation and Maintenance
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Cross Wind Trap Strips – Job Sketch

If needed, an aerial view of the field illustrating strip widths, prevailing wind direction, and field layout can be shown below. Other relevant information, such as adjacent field or tract conditions including structures and crop types, the positioning of multiple or single row sets across a field or tract, and complementary practices, and additional specifications may also be included.

Scale 1"=_____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

Additional Specifications and Notes:

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